

DERWENT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

SELBY:
E. M. RIMMINGTON & CO., FINKLE STREET
1953



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To the Chairman and Members of the Derwent
Rural District Council.

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District for the year 1952.

It may not be inappropriate to mention that it is the last Report I shall prepare and is the eighteenth since the formation of the Derwent Rural District (by the fusion of the Riccall and Escrick Rural Districts) in the year 1935.

It also marks the termination of the existence of the combined sanitary district which was formed in the year 1879 comprising the Rural Districts of Tadcaster, Goole, Selby and Riccall, together with the Urban District of Selby.

In vacating my office, I desire to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their constant courtesy and kindness, and to acknowledge also the ready help and co-operation I have always received from the Clerk and his staff since the year 1914.

The vital statistics for the year under review show a diminished death rate, no deaths from zymotic disease, no maternal mortality, and one of the lowest infantile mortality rates I have ever recorded.

W. Bertram Hill.

DERWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Councillor A. Waudby, J.P.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor F. Bass.

Vice-Chairman: C. Campey, C.C.

Sanitary Inspector:

GEORGE CHARNLEY,

Cert. S.I. Board,

Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

WILFRED HALL BLACKBURN,

Cert. S.I. Joint Board,

Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

Medical Officer of Health:

W. BERTRAM HILL, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL WITHIN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

Infant Welfare Centres:

Barlby—Wednesdays fortnightly, 2 pm.

Dunnington—Wednesdays monthly, 2 p.m.

Elvington—Mondays monthly, 2 p.m.

Fulford—Tuesdays weekly, 2 p.m.

Riccall and Riccall R.A.F.—Thursdays monthly, 2 p.m.

Domicilian Nursing and Midwifery Staff:

Nurse E. Seal, 30 Turnhead Crescent, Barlby.

Nurse D. Holden, 6 Council Houses, Skipwith.

Nurse M. Massam, Main Street, Escrick.

Nurse H. Watson, 31 The Crescent, Heslington.

Health Visitor/School Nurse/Tuberculosis Visitor:

Miss M. G. Taylor, 23 Eastward Avenue, Fulford.

School Nurse:

Mrs. G. Boyes, Thixendale.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—13,130 (Mid-year, 1952).

	Derwent Rural District	England and Wales
Death Rate	9.1 per 1,000	11.3
Birth Rate	13.7 „	15.3
Infantile Mortality Rate	11.1 „	27.6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ....	.00 „	.24
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.00 „	
Cancer Death Rate	1.4 „	
Respiratory Death Rate	1.2 „	
Zymotic Death Rate ....	.00 „	
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	.00 „	.01
Still Birth Rate ....	.22 „	.35
Diarrhoea (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births).	.00 „	1.1

Maternal Mortality.—There were no deaths under the headings of Childbirth, Pregnancy and Abortion during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Average No. of cases for 5 yrs.	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Polio- myelitis
1934-1938	8	17	2.7	.5	
1939-1943	8.2	18.6	2.4	.8	
1944-1948	1.8	19.2	2.4	.4	.8
1950	—	24	4	1	1
1951	—	7	1	—	1
1952	—	18	—	—	1

Measles.—84 cases were notified: there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.—47 cases were notified: there were no deaths.

DEATHS FROM SEVERAL CAUSES
in the Derwent Rural District for the year 1952.

					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	....	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	....	....	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	....	....	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	....	....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	....	....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	....	....	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	—	—	—
8.	Measles	....	....	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases			—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	....		1	2	
11.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung Bronchus			1	—	
12.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	....		—	2	
13.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	....		—	1	
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasm			8	4	
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	....	....	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	....	....	1	2	
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System			10	7	
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	....	....	9	5	
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	....		—	2	
20.	Other Heart Diseases	....	....	11	14	
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	4	1	
22.	Influenza	....	....	—	1	
23.	Pneumonia	....	....	3	4	
24.	Bronchitis	....	....	7	—	
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System			—	3	
26.	Ulcer—Stomach and Duodenum	....		1	—	
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	....		1	—	
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	2	—	
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	....	....	3	—	
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	....		—	—
31.	Congenital Malformation	....	....	1	—	
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			4	4	
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	....	....	1	—	
34.	All Other Accidents	....	....	—	—
35.	Suicide	....	....	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	....		—	—
	All Causes	....	....	68	52	

Population—13,130.

				Male	Female
Live Births.—Legitimate	....	....	....	94	85
Illegitimate	....	....	....	8	3
Total	....	....	....	102	78
Still Births.—Legitimate	....	....	....	—	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	1
Total	....	....	....	—	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:					
Legitimate	....	....	....	1	1
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—
Total	....	....	....	1	1

Comparability Factor.—(Births) 1.05; (Deaths) .94.

In order that the death rate and birth rate as calculated locally may be compared with that of the Country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied a comparability figure, viz., .94 (Deaths) and 1.05 (Births).

The death rate becomes $9.1 \times .94$, which furnishes a rate of 8.5 per 1,000 population.

The birth rate becomes 13.7×1.05 , which furnishes a rate of 14.3 per 1,000 population.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Average Notifications in				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1934—1938	....	....	....	9	3.7
1939—1943	....	....	....	6.2	3.8
1944—1948	....	....	....	8	3.4
1950	....	....	....	11	2
1951	....	....	....	9	2
1952	....	....	....	12	3

CASE RATE PER 1,000 LIVING OF ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

			England and Wales		Derwent Rural District
Typhoid Fever	....	....	.00	....	.00
Para Typhoid Fever	....	....	.02	....	.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	....	.03	....	.00
Scarlet Fever	....	....	1.53	....	1.37
Whooping Cough	....	....	2.61	....	3.50
Diphtheria	....	....	.01	....	.00
Erysipelas	....	....	.14	....	.00
Small Pox	....	....	.00	....	.00
Measles	....	....	8.86	....	6.39
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	....	....	.06	....	.07
Non-Paralytic	....	....	.03	....	.00
Pneumonia	....	....	.72	....	.76
*Puerperal Fever	}	....	.03	....	.00
Puerperal Pyrexia		....		
Food Poisoning	....	....	.13	....	.00

* Per 1,000 total live and still births.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1952.

(a) Number of persons vaccinated or revaccinated during the year 1952:—

Age at date of Vaccination	Under 1	1 year	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Totals
Number vaccinated	95	1	1	—	7	104
Number re-vaccinated	—	—	2	2	15	19.

(b) Number of children at 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st Jan, 1938):—

Age at 31.12.51 i.e., Born in Year	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947	5 to 9 1942-46	10 to 14 1937-41	Total under 15
Number Immunised	13	117	132	133	149	733	781	2058

(c) Number of children immunised during the year ended 31st December, 1951:—
(Figures also included in (b) above).

Under 5	5 to 14	Total	Boosters
146	8	154	76

Of the total children in the age group 0—14 years in the Rural District, 68.5% have been immunised against Diphtheria

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1952.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
	At all Ages.	According to Age							
		Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64			Over 65
Small-pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	18	..	4	14	..	..	..	16	..
Typhus Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis, paralytic ...	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
" " non-paralytic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	..	..	..	3	3	5	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
Measles	84	..	39	45	..	..	..	..	..
Primary Pneumonia	10	..	..	2	1	2	3	2	1
Influenzal Pneumonia ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	47	2	21	21	..	1	..	2	..
Dysentery ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	175	2	64	84	4	7	10	4	18

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Water Supply.

During the year, a total of 127 million gallons was supplied by the Council's water mains, of which some 83 millions were obtained from the Selby U.D.C. and the balance from York Waterworks Company. Frequent samples taken from various points in the area were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all showed satisfactory results.

In the village of Escrick, a private supply obtained from a bore at Escrick Park, is fed to 25 premises, and examination showed this to be satisfactory.

All these supplies are chlorinated at the source.

The whole of the work on the extension of the Council's water mains, commenced in June, 1951, was completed during the middle of this year, and included an additional 25 miles of mains and a reservoir of 180,000 gallons capacity on Stillingfleet Hill. There is now approximately 98 miles of mains serving the area, and two 30,000 gallons capacity water towers in addition to the Stillingfleet reservoir.

This scheme, as well as supplying further portions of the District, interconnects numerous existing mains, and in general has shown an improvement in the pressure of supply. In one parish, however, numerous complaints were received of inadequate pressure, primarily due to a fall in pressure at the point of supply. Improvement has been made by reducing the area fed by that particular bulk supply, and it is understood that in due course an improved supply pressure can be expected, which should be adequate for all purposes.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council's weekly scavenging scheme continues to serve all the parishes within the district, and excludes only the isolated properties. The main disposal point is at Crockey Hill, and this tip is likely to be filled during the coming year. A considerable amount of dry refuse is deposited on a private tip at Turnhead Farm, Barlby. Preliminary steps have been taken to obtain a further tipping site.

Details of the Water Supply of each Parish in the Rural Area

PARISH	No. of Houses	Cat. 1 No. of Houses supplied direct from public main	Cat. 2 No. of Houses supplied from stand-pipes	Cat. 3 No. of Houses supplied from other private sources	Population figures for respective categories		
					Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3
Barlby	897	878	14	Nil	2164	51	Nil
Cliffe	252	228	10	Nil	733	36	Nil
Deighton	52	40	Nil	Nil	167	Nil	Nil
Dunnington	312	239	22	Nil	692	78	Nil
Elvington	132	109	9	Nil	335	33	Nil
Escrick	146	110	Nil	25	402	Nil	85
Hemingbrough	203	166	7	Nil	546	26	Nil
Kelfield	96	84	6	Nil	276	22	Nil
Kexby	48	30	Nil	Nil	101	Nil	Nil
Naburn	129	84	6	Nil	363	23	Nil
North Duffield	111	83	10	Nil	255	35	Nil
Riccall	256	232	15	Nil	707	53	Nil
Skipwith	62	46	4	Nil	165	15	Nil
Stillingfleet	89	76	2	Nil	191	11	Nil
Thorganby	86	67	12	Nil	309	42	Nil
Wheldrake	145	113	16	Nil	365	57	Nil
Totals	3016	2585	133	25	7771	482	85
Fulford	462	Within the York Waterworks Company's Statutory Area—supplied with water from their mains.					
Heslington	208						
Total Houses	3686						

Because of the ever-increasing volume of refuse, due to new houses being erected and houses being visited which were not served when the scheme first commenced, the present two vehicles (1946 Karrier Bantams with 7 cubic yards capacity) are working beyond capacity and rapidly deteriorating. A new 10 cubic yards vehicle is on order and should be available early in 1953. This will greatly improve the position, but it is felt that the time has arrived when three vehicles are required for at least a portion of the week, and that it is necessary for both the existing vehicles to be overhauled or replaced.

Sewage Disposal.

The general standard of sewage disposal in the villages throughout the area is by no means satisfactory, and due to new buildings and a general increased usage of mains water, there is, and likely to be, a steady deterioration in conditions. It is appreciated that the cost of a sewerage scheme for even a small village is considerable, but it is felt that conditions in the villages of Elvington, Dunnington, Heslington and Fulford are such that the whole question should be re-examined as soon as possible. Frequent complaints are received concerning the various dykes and watercourses into which the sewage from these villages discharges, but in the absence of suitable sewage disposal works, an improvement in conditions is virtually impossible.

In the Mill Lane and Hull Road area of the Parish of Heslington a new sewer is in course of construction, which, when put into use, will make possible the abolition of the cesspools serving that property, thus making the sanitary conditions satisfactory, and also removing a considerable charge on the Council's funds which has been caused by the regular and frequent cesspool emptying service. There still remains a number of houses in Fordlands Road, Fulford, where there are cesspools, and it is considered that a sewer installed to serve these properties would likewise be a considerable improvement in conditions and an ultimate economy.

Food Premises.

Routine visits to premises used for the preparation and sale of food have shown the general standard to be satisfactory, but there is need for a complete survey of all premises in the district, to ensure that all comply with the standards laid down in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk—Retail Dairies.

A considerable proportion of the milk consumed in the area is bottled and supplied by large outside dairies. The retail dairies within the district have been found to be satisfactory.

Three samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination with negative results.

Rodent Control.

The Council's Rodent Operative, who does this work along with other duties, has carried out routine treatments at certain business premises, and the cost has been recovered. In addition, regular treatments of the Council's tips have been made and numerous private properties have been dealt with.

General Public Health and Housing Inspections.

Total inspections for all purposes	....	516
Inspections under the Public Health Acts		92

All complaints of nuisance and housing disrepair have been investigated and appropriate informal action taken; no circumstances arose which required submission to the Council for formal action.

The gradual deterioration in the state of repair of cottage property, which is recognised as taking place throughout the country, can be observed in the Derwent area, and is almost entirely due to the high cost of repairs as compared with the controlled rents. Because of these high costs, it should be appreciated that when complaints of housing defects are received, it is generally quite unreasonable to implement the provisions of the Housing Acts, which require that when repairs are completed, a dwelling should be fit in every respect. Instead, only the most serious defects are dealt with, satisfying the particular complaint, but there is virtually no improvement in the standard of fitness.

The question of slum clearance is one which will have to receive early consideration. There are still occupied 17 houses which were dealt with under Clearance Orders in 1938, and these occupants should be rehoused and the sites cleared as a first step towards a positive programme. In dealing with other sub-standard houses, it should be borne in mind

that a proportion of the occupants are applicants for Council houses. Thus, future clearance areas are likely to help to reduce the housing list; also they will remove the type of dwelling which, so long as it is in use, forms a stepping stone towards a Council house.

No application for a grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, was received during the year.

The Rural Housing Survey was continued as far as other duties allowed and 83 houses were classified up to 31st Dec., 1952.

Total number of houses liable for inspection	3319
Total number of houses classified	2469

Classification.

1. Satisfactory in all respects	1223
2. Minor defects	570
3. Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements	497
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing Acts (The houses in this group are included in other categories).	59
5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	179
	<hr/> 2469 <hr/>

Council Houses.

During the year further progress was made in the erection of Council Houses and the position at 31st March, 1953, was as follows:—

	POST WAR				PRE-WAR
	Completed	Under Construction	Tenders let or being invited	Total	
Barlby	72	32		104	52 2 Halfway Houses
Cliffe	14			14	24
Deighton	—	4		4	16
Dunnington	28	10		38	
Elvington	16			16	
Escrick	8	4		12	
Fulford	63	23		86	
Hemingbrough	10			10	14
Heslington	32			32	
Kelfield	12			12	19*
Kexby	8			8	
Naburn	9			9	13
North Duffield	6			6	6*
Riccall	14			14	28
Skipwith	8			8	4
Stillingfleet	10			10	6
Thorganby	6			6	
Wheldrake	14	4		14	8*
Total	330	47		379	192

* This in each case includes (2) Agricultural Houses built in 1944.

The Council houses, on completion, are taken over from the Architect after an inspection to verify the general condition. At the end of six months a further inspection is made and all items of work necessary are carried out by the Contractor at his expense. When this work has been satisfactorily completed, the houses are formally taken over from the Architect, and all subsequent works of repair are the Council's responsibility.

All general building repairs are carried out by local builders on day work orders issued by the Surveyor. The two plumbers employed by the Council are chiefly engaged on Water Supply works, but as much as possible of the plumbing repair work is carried out by them, and private contractors are employed where necessary.

It is considered that the whole question of house and property maintenance will have to be reviewed at an early date. As the number of houses steadily increases—the present schemes in progress will bring the total to over 600 dwellings—there will of necessity have to be an increase in both labour and transport to cope with the routine maintenance.